

California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP): Evaluation Summary*

This document briefly summarizes the 2005-06 evaluation of the eleven regional *California Technology Assistance Projects* (CTAP) as required by SB 1254, the statute authorizing this program. The complete statewide report, as well as region-specific evaluation reports, is available from the California Department of Education.

CTAP Services Provided: The legislative intent is for CTAP to contribute to an increase in knowledge and use of technology to improve teaching and learning by providing professional development to educators on a regional basis to include: 1) selecting and integrating technology into curriculum, 2) planning and using hardware and telecommunications networks, 3) using technology to support school management and data-driven decision-making, and 4) identifying and applying for state and Federal funding for instructional uses of technology. CTAP staff work with representatives of counties and districts in their regions to provide needed services to all school districts while addressing needs of rural and technologically underserved schools. During 2005-06 the evaluation documented a significant increase in local representation and involvement of CTAP regional representatives in the planning and implementation of CTAP services.

Services delivered: All eleven CTAP regions met or exceeded most (88%) of the planned objectives related to the above-mentioned services. Evaluation showed that the regions collectively delivered about 3000 professional development events serving about 42,000 educators during 2005-06. About 60% of the participants were teachers and 40% administrators and technical support staff. Professional development included workshops with follow-up support, conference presentations, region-specific institutes, and direct consultation to educators. Delivery methods included large and small group in-person events with an increase in the use of video-conferencing to deliver professional development and consultation—especially to rural and remote schools.

Use and Impact of Services: Surveys completed by a sample of 5,402 participants in CTAP services showed that across all types of services delivered, 44% definitely planned to use of information or skills acquired from CTAP and 20% were prepared to assist others. CTAP also provided assistance to districts in developing technology plans required for Federal E-rate discounts and in writing Federal *Enhancing Education Through Technology* Competitive grants resulting in \$25,990,586 funding to districts. A representative sample of 454 users of CTAP services completed a pre- post-survey documenting an increase in readiness and or use of technology by 90% of the survey respondents.

Recommendations: The major recommendations included the following: 1) Increase awareness of CTAP services, 2) expand coordination of CTAP with other regional services, 3) help educators find appropriate applications for the K-12 High Speed Network, 4) explore additional strategies for meeting the needs of rural and technologically underserved schools, 5) ensure services are adapted to meet current needs, 6) provide additional assistance in the use of technology for management and analysis of student data to inform instructional decisions, 7) provide the California Legislature and State Board of Education with annual reports on current and emerging educational technology needs, the extent to which these needs are being addressed by CTAP, and 8) the need for state funding to enable CTAP to continue addressing these needs.

*Evaluation conducted by *Educational Support Systems* under contract with the California Department of Education
Contact John Cradler, Lead Evaluator for additional information at: cradler@earthlink.net